Passport Officers' meeting that passports will be issued to the applicants within 30 days;

(b) whether it is also a fact there is acute shortage of passport books;

(c) what is the number of applications pending for issuing passport at Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office;

(d) what is the number of passport books available with the passport office at Ahmedabad today; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to issue the passport expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) We have impressed on the Passport Officers to issue passports in all the cases within 5 weeks of receipt of applications. They have been advised to strive to attain this objective by motivation of staff to maximise productivity.

(b) Adequate no. of passport booklets are now available with the passport offices.

(c) The no. of applications pending at various stages of processing as on 28-2-92 is 43181.

(d) No. of blank passport booklets available with the Passport Office Ahmedabad as on 28-2-92 is 9268.

(e) Passport procedures have been simplified to facilitate expeditious issue of passport service. These are given in the Statement (Please refer to the statement appended to the USQ 1593).

Human Rights Organisation Report on Terrorists Killings in Kashmir

1670. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Times of India dated 10th February, 1992 under the heading "Asia Watch Report—An attempt to legitimise terrorist killings in Kashmir";

(b) if so, what are the details of above mentioned US based human rights organisations report; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report documents the so-called human rights situation in Kashmir and highlights alleged human rights violations by the personnel of the security forces.

(c) While reaffirming its commitment to uphold human rights, Government regard the Asia Watch Report as one-sided, grossly exaggerated and riddled with inaccuracies Government notes that the report glosses over the massive human rights violations committed by terrorists in Kashmir who have infiltrated from across the border after having received training and arms in Pakistan.

Purchase of Uranium by Pakistan

1671. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent press reports that Pakistan are buying enriched uranium from Tadjikistan for its nuclear programme;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Tadjikistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) Yes, Sir.